



Minutes of the Waterford LAG Meeting
Thursday 10th March 2022, teleconference via Zoom at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

Non Public Sector:

Public Sector

1. Gabriel Foley	PPN / Environment	1. Mayor Joe Kelly (Chair)	Elected representative
2. Senan Cooke	PPN / Community & Voluntary	2. Cllr. Pat Nugent	Elected representative
3. Catherine Quinlan	I.C.M.S.A.	3. Michael Walsh	CE, WC&CC
4. Heather Kiely	PPN/ Community & Voluntary	4. Brendan Lawton	Reg. Mgr. Dept. Social Protection
5. Jimmy Taaffe	CEO – WLP CLG	5. Richie Walsh	Head of LEO
6. Jenny Beresford	CEO Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber	6. Michael O'Brien	WWETB
7. Liam Quinn	CEO – Waterford Area Partnership		
Apologies:		Apologies:	
8. Gerald Hurley	CEO Waterford City Chamber	7. Derval Howley	Head of Wellbeing HSE
9. Maggie Flanagan	PPN / Community & Voluntary	8. Cllr Eamon Quinlan	Elected representative (Deputy Chair)
10. Breda Fell	PPN / Community & Voluntary	9. Julie Somers	CYPSC Coordinator

Staff Present: I. Grimes Chief Officer, J. Codd S.O., S. Whelan S.O., E. Smyth, ASO.

1. Total current Membership	19
2. Total attendees	13
3. Quorum % required (50% of 1 above)	Achieved – 68%
4. non-public/public ratio attendees % ratio non-public/public attendees	7 non-public : 6 public 54% non-public: 46% public

1. **Confirmation of Quorum:** Having reviewed the attendance record Acting Chief Officer Ivan Grimes informed the attendees that a quorum was achieved. Non-public 7: Public 6.

Chair Joe Kelly opened the meeting.

2. **Apologies.**

As per table above apologies were noted.

3. **Conflict of Interest:**

- (i) No declarations submitted for this meeting
- (ii) Review of Quorum: Quorum achieved 7:6 in favour of non-public sector.

4. **Confirmation of Minutes of LAG Meeting held on 17th February 2022.**

Proposed: S. Cooke	Seconded by G. Foley
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

5. **Matters arising:**
None.

6. **Rural Development Programme.**

(a) **Projects for Approval.**

- (i) **31LDRWAT116940 Dungarvan Skate-park**

Project ID	31LDRWAT116940
Project Type:	Capital
Project Name:	Dungarvan Skatepark
Promoters Name:	Dungarvan Skatepark Company CLG
Address:	Faha, Ring, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford

Description:	The project involves the planning, design and construction of a skatepark at the linear park (aka Fairlane Park), Dungarvan, catering for all age groups but particularly addressing the need of young people who do not take part in field sports.
Theme:	LO5, Basic services for hard to reach communities
Sub-theme:	SA5.1
Link to LDS	Supporting rural community facilities best serve the needs of their communities

Total Project Costs	€199,997.05		
Eligible Project Costs	€199,997.05		
Funding sought by promoter:	€149,997.78		
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First review		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	€149,997.78		
Details of private funding:	€39,999.27 WC&CC €10,000 The Lions Club		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	Funding of a skate park at Fairlane Park, Dungarvan where alternative facilities for young people who do not take part in field sports are extremely limited		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 75 %
	Construction of a skatepark	€199,997.05	€149,997.78
	Total Funding	€199,997.05	€149,997.78
Was an assessment completed?: Date: 09/12/2021	Yes		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, etendering was used and the chosen suppliers selected using the most economic advantageous tender based on a quality price ratio of 70/30 rather than price only		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the	The two tenders received were very close in price and were deemed to be suitable to under the selection criteria		

EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	
Innovative Element of the project:	This will be the first of its kind in Dungarvan and offers a unique proposition as part of an overall development that will include a learn to cycle track, a BMX pump track and an open air performance area.
Consideration of Deadweight:	The project would not go ahead without LEADER funding
Consideration of Displacement:	There is no similar facility locally with the nearest skate park in Tramore and Waterford city
Economic justification for project:	The project while free of charge is in a prime visible location next door to the Aldi store and playground and will provide another amenity for visitors to the area
Average Score for Project:	84/100
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €149,997.78 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser
E. C. Executive Summary/Rationale for Funding	The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:- 1. The project fits the LCDC Local Development Plan for supporting Basic Service type projects. 2. The project scored 84/100 A maximum of €149,997.78 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
0	0	€49,999.27	€0

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Mary Houlihan, Failte Ireland	9 th Dec 2021	Mary Houlihan

The following were the main points raised in the discussion of the project: -

- Ms Claire Connors outlined the project to the Evaluation Committee advising that the promoters advertised the project on extenders and received two quotations in response.
- The Committee was set up in May last year with the purpose of establishing a Skatepark in Dungarvan. The skatepark is one element of the park which will have a combination of wheeled activities on offer. The project is fully supported by WC&CC and they have agreed to cover any shortfall and to provide an engineer for the project.
- The Skatepark will be a free of charge for all users.

- A Committee Member advised that skateboarding is now an Olympian sport. The female gold winner was aged 13 and the male gold winner was aged 28, which shows the broad age range involved.
- The Evaluation Committee agree that there is a need to cater to more than the mainstream sports and that there is a growing market for numerous other sporting and recreational activities.
- A discussion ensued on electric scooters and if the facility will be used by them. Ms Connors advised that the design of the skatepark will be mainly suitable for skateboards.
- Ms Connors advised that there was very little in the cost difference between both quotes. The promoters evaluated the tenders based on quality 70% and 30% on cost. Browne Brothers while slightly dearer came out on top with quality. The Browne Brothers plan is one and a half times bigger than Garden Escapes therefore was better overall value.
- A Committee Member queried if the match funding was funds received from WC&CC and if so, why it is shown in the application as the promoters own funds? It was clarified that Local Authorities can give projects up to 25% in funds. It is not a loan and once given becomes the promoters own funds.
- The establishment of the Committee a year ago for the purpose of drawing down a LEADER grant was also discussed. Mr. Jimmy Taaffe clarified that the promoters of the projects came together to develop a skatepark in Dungarvan. The promoters membership includes Mr. Donal Connolly ex County Manager, Ms Mary Leahy and John Donovan from the No Name Club and all are very experienced in managing projects in the community and in their organisations and have the necessary skills to bring this project to fruition.
- It was queried why the Local Authority did not fund the project? Mr. Jimmy Taaffe said that Dungarvan and Tramore don't really have strong community groups. Initially the Lions Club was hoping to promote the project but when this didn't happen a new committee was established for the sole purpose of delivering this project. This is allowed under the rules and is fully legit and above board. The Lions Club donated €10,000 and WC&CC donated €40,000 to the project. There are numerous letters of support on file for the project.
- It was confirmed that skateboards can be purchased second hand online on Amazon from €30 but are usually priced from €70 elsewhere.
- The Evaluation Committee were very supportive of the project noting that Skateboarding has numerous benefits and keeps people fit and active and will attract visitors to the town.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed that funding this project is a good use of Rural Development funds and agreed to recommend funding to the LCDC.

The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:-

3. The project fits the LCDC Local Development Plan for supporting Basic Service type projects.
4. The project scored 84/100

A maximum of €149,997.78 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser

Amount Recommended: €149,997.78

€199,997.05

Proposed: S Cooke	Seconded by: P Nugent
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

b) For Approval: Project Extensions

ii) 31LDRWAT113546 Blackwater House Development

Proposed: P Nugent	Seconded by: G Foley
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

ii) 31LDRWAT113649 Construction of a two storey office block Lismore Business Park

Proposed: J Beresford	Seconded by: P Nugent
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

iii) 31LDRWAT113549 Tallow Community Enterprise Hub

Proposed: H Kiely	Seconded by: G Foley
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

iv) 31LDRWAT113677 Villierstown Enterprise Centre

Proposed: P Nugent	Seconded by: J Beresford
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

d) Nominations for LECP Advisory Group

Acting Chief Officer Ivan Grimes outlined the rationale for the formation of advisory group with two representatives apiece from both the community and economic spheres to support the LECP process.

Nomination of Maggie Flannagan

Proposed: S Cooke	Seconded by: G Foley
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

Nomination of Julie Somers

Proposed: M Walsh	Seconded by: J Beresford
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

e) 2021 Q4 RDP Returns Income and Expenditure were noted by the committee.

7. **Correspondence.** One press release was circulated to the committee.

- Minister Humphreys announces €18.5m to combat dereliction.

8. **A.O.B.**

G Foley inquired if rising costs in construction was posing a problem for project promoters. WLP S.E.O. Mr. J Taaffe replied that no increases can be given on the approved grant amount. Mr. Taaffe also advised that grants are paid retrospectively therefore the issue of recouping unused promoter funds, as has occurred in other counties, cannot occur in Co. Waterford.

9. **Date and venue of next LAG meeting:** The next meeting will take place at 10.00am Thursday 14th April 2022, via videoconference.

Meeting Closed

Signed _____
CHAIRPERSON DATE